



CONSUMER ALERT

Are You Eligible For The 2003 Home Heating Credit?



The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) doesn't want you to miss out on your chance to receive the Home Heating Credit from the state of Michigan! The Home Heating Credit is funded by federal Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) grants. Many eligible low-income consumers either do not know about the credit or know about it and are failing to take advantage of it. Those spending a large portion of their monthly income to pay heating costs may be eligible for the Home Heating Credit, which is now available for the 2003 tax year. Some customers may receive \$150 or more to help pay their winter heating bills.

Who can apply?

Eligible customers must meet the following guidelines:

- ✦ Your homestead is in Michigan
- ✦ You own or rent the home (including a rented apartment or mobile home on a lot in a mobile home park) where you live, and your income is within the following limits:

<i>Number of Exemptions*</i>	<i>Maximum Income</i>
1	\$9,914
2	\$13,371
3	\$16,829
4	\$20,257
5	\$23,714
6	\$27,171
<i>*Note: Add \$3,454 for each additional exemption. Special exemptions are available if you are deaf, blind, a person with a disability, or age 65 or older.</i>	
<i>Customers who qualify for the credit may also be eligible for the Winter Protection Plan. Contact your local utility for more information.</i>	

How to apply?

You can obtain a Home Heating Credit claim form (MI-1040CR-7) from the Michigan Department of Treasury by calling 800.367.6263 or by visiting their website at www.michigan.gov/treasury. Forms are generally available at most Michigan Secretary of State offices, post offices, and libraries. You can receive help in filling out the form by calling 800.487.7000. Some utility companies have application forms and personnel who can help you complete the forms, or they can give you names of agencies that can also help. It is best to file your Home Heating Credit form as soon as you know your household income for 2003. Claim forms filed before April 15, 2004 receive priority in processing. The deadline for filing claim forms is **September 30, 2004**.

When will you get the credit?

If e-filed, it will take the Michigan Department of Treasury about three weeks from the time it receives the claim form to process and issue credits. If a paper copy is mailed, it will take longer. Return your Home Heating Credit form as soon as possible!